

**REMARKS:**

The claims pending in the subject patent application have been subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121. The applicants hereby affirm election of Group II which includes claims 2, 13, and 26-36 drawn to a polydiene elastomer. In affirmation of this election, the claims that are directed to the non-elected invention (claims 1, 3-12, and 14-25) have been cancelled. The applicants also hereby confirm the elections of species made by Alvin T. Rockhill, the attorney for the applicants, during his telephone conversation with Examiner Lu on March 15, 2005. More specifically, the applicants hereby confirm election of the functionalized monomer of claim 13 as the elected species of functionalized monomer and also affirm their election of styrene-butadiene rubber (as called for in claim 36) as their elected species of polymer.

Claims 2 and 29 have been amended to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 2 has been amended to call for "diene repeat units" and claim 29 has been amended to call for a "vinyl microstructure content of at least 55 percent." The Examiner had allowed claims 27 - 36 on the basis that they called for a polydispersity of at least 1.3 and had indicated that such a limitation is not rendered obvious by the teachings of Rodewald (United States Patent 6,627,721). Claim 2 has been amended to include such a limitation calling for the high vinyl polydiene rubber to have a polydispersity of at least 1.3. Since every other claim now pending in the subject patent application is dependant directly or indirectly upon claim 2, all pending claims are now allowable on the basis of calling for a polydispersity of at least 1.3.

The specification has been amended at page 29, line 5 through line 23 to provide explicit support for a monomodal dispersity of at least 1.3. This amendment is supported by claim 27 as originally filed.

The subject patent application is now in a condition for allowance and such an allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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